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HAZARDOUS WASTE INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL OFFICES

What is hazardous waste?

Federal and state laws define waste as "hazardous" if it is ignitable, corrosive, reactive or toxic. Other wastes are listed by name. These may differ from lists of hazardous materials, which are regulated by OSHA and Right-to-Know.

What hazardous wastes are found in medical and dental offices?

If you have a photoprocessing waste, typically from X-ray, which leaches silver in a concentration of 5 mg/l or more, or dental waste which leaches mercury in a concentration of .2 mg/l or more, you are a "generator" of hazardous waste. (Concentrations are determined by an extraction procedure toxicity test.)

What is infectious waste?

Syringes, sharps, blood products and the like from hospitals are considered infectious waste and are regulated by the Department of Public Health. For information on changes in these regulations which will in the next few months affect medical offices, call 617-727-2660. It is recommended that your infectious waste be placed in rigid containers and steam-sterilized or autoclaved.

What am I required to do as a hazardous waste generator?

If the amount of hazardous waste you produce in a months time is less than 25 gallons, you qualify as a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG). As a VSQG, you are required to register with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE), label your waste as hazardous, and ship it with a licensed hazardous waste hauler or precious metal transporter to a licensed treatment or disposal facility. Call 800-343-3420 to register.

What are my disposal options?

- You may want to reclaim silver from your X-ray waste yourself. For information about recycling options, call DEQE 617-292-5786 or 5905. If your silver recovery equipment is hard-piped and connected to the photoprocessor, you are currently exempt from recycling permits.
- You may ship your silver waste to a reclaimer. Attached is a list of precious metal transporters. Be aware that it is your responsibility as generator of the waste to know where your waste is going and how it is handled. Most of these transporters have not yet been fully licensed by DEQE.
- If you are a registered VSQG, you may transport your waste to another generator or receiving facility as long as you carry your VSQG registration in your vehicle, do not transport more than 55 gallons at a time, obtain a receipt for your waste and retain your receipts for at least three years.
- Some liquid residues can be discharged to the sewer if they are not classified as hazardous waste. You should call your local sewer authority for information. If you discharge to a septic tank or dry well, you need a groundwater discharge permit from DEQE. Call 617-292-5893.

PRECIOUS METAL TRANSPORTERS

registered with the Massachusetts Division of Hazardous Waste
9/1/88

B & D Associates, Inc. 129 Liberty St. Central Falls, RI. (401) 722-9825	LPM Corp. 1770 Kings Highway Fairfield, CT (203) 259-8321 Metals Treatment Co., Inc. 37 Libera St. Cranston, RI (401) 946-0380
Boston Recovery Co. 279 Stone St. Walpole, MA (508) 668-5486	National Chemical Co., Inc. 1420 Elmwood Avenue Cranston, RI (401) 461-4000
Clearview Associates 12 Goodhue St. Salem, MA (508) 741-4115	New England X-Ray 50 Thayer Rd. Waltham, MA (617) 484-3676
Equipment Consultants, Inc. 49 Newark St. Haverhill, MA (508) 374-6371	E.M. Parker Co. 646 Brookline Ave. Brookline, MA (617) 277-7211
Gannon & Scott, Inc. 33 Kenney Drive Cranston, RI (401) 463-5550	Pease & Curren 75 Pennsylvania Ave. Warwick, RI (401) 739-6350
GEIB Refining Corp. 399 Kilvert St. Warwick, RI (401) 738-8560	Radiology Resources 4 Draper Street Woburn, MA (617) 935-4470
Glines and Rhodes 189 East Street Attleboro, MA (508) 226-2000	Radiology Services 103 East Main Street Georgetown, MA (508) 352-2050
GSP Company, Inc. 160 Middlesex Street N. Chelmsford, MA (508) 251-7225	RFE Industries Foot of Jersey Ave. Jersey City, NJ (201) 451-0229
Joseph Freedman Co., Inc. 40 Albany Street Springfield, MA (413) 781-4444	Romar Technology, Inc. 12 Goodhue Street Salem, MA (508) 741-0230
Kelley Metals Corp. 115 Valley St. East Providence, RI (401) 434-8795	RST Reclaiming Co. 3 Brick Kiln Road N. Billerica, MA (508) 251-2812

RTI, Inc.
65 Newcomb Street
Attleboro, MA
(508) 226-1950

Solutek Corp.
94 Shirley Street
Boston, MA
(617) 445-5335

Technic Inc.
1 Spectale Street
Providence, RI
(401) 781-6100

TRW Medical Electronics
2550 Cranberry Highway
Wareham, MA
(508) 295-8100

